

RESISTANCE

BULLETIN OF THE COLIN ROACH CENTRE

Labour Party attacks

The Colin Roach Centre is under attack. Since the Trade Union Support Unit (TUSU) and Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) set the centre up, Labour Party members of Hackney Trades Council have been niggling TUSU. Now, they are after £2,000 from TUSU and are threatening court action.

Hackney Council

We have been summonsed by Hackney Council for non-payment of our non-domestic rates. Last year TUSU was Council funded and the Colin Roach Centre received an 80% rebate as a voluntary organisation. We assumed that we would be entitled to a similar rebate this year, as TUSU is now an unfunded voluntary organisation like HCDA. Silly us; it's at the Labour Council's discretion to award rate rebates. We are appealing against the Council's decision.

Flyposting

And now, TUSU's Mark Metcalf has been charged with advertising without planning permission for flyposting for the Miners' Support Committee public meeting with Arthur Scargill in February. Mark is pleading not guilty. The Labour Party's use of this law means that if he is found guilty he will have to pay a minimum of £100 costs and a possible £400 fine.



Hackney Labour Party is looking to seize about £4,000 of the Colin Roach Centre's funds. Needless to say we can't pay, so we won't pay.

RESISTANCE

The Colin Roach Centre is here to stay. *RESISTANCE* contains information about other groups based in the centre - the Lesbian and Gay Festival Group, Anti-Fascist Collective and Unemployed Action Group.

RESISTANCE is just one of several new projects planned at the Colin Roach Centre. We aim to set up a publishing club, photography club and organise a festival of resistance for March 1994.

SUPPORT

Mark Metcalf

Thames Magistrates Court
Bow Road, E2
Friday 5 November, 2.00pm

On the Border of a Police State

PUBLIC MEETING

Halkevi Community Centre
Thursday 11 November, 7.30pm

PICKET

Hackney Town Hall
1st December, 6.00pm

See back for details

Centre news

The Administration and Finances Working Group (AFWG) is responsible for running the Colin Roach Centre. It consists of three delegates from each rent paying group - TUSU, HCDA, and the LGFG - and the membership.

This structure is designed to represent the

interests of all centre users. By restricting groups to the same number of delegates, we have prevented any one group from dominating, and by holding delegates accountable to their own groups, we hope to prevent a centralised power structure. It is a democratic structure which is intended to allow an

alliance of independent organisations to develop and co-ordinate their activities.

The first FAWG meeting was held on 19 October. Ten delegates outlined work plans for the next six months and discussed the problems we face from the Labour Party. Most of the projects described in this

bulletin were discussed and important administrative decisions taken.

The next FAWG meeting will be held on 9 November. Minutes of meetings are available from the Centre, and there will be a report back at the 16 November members' meeting.

Trade Union Support Unit

TUSU lost its Council funding in March 1993 after years of consistent opposition to cuts in jobs and services imposed by the Labour Council.

TUSU's workers and some members of the management committee decided to keep working and set up the Colin Roach Centre with HCDA. This determination to continue the fight for trade union rights has been opposed by some union bureaucrats.

Community Defence Association

HCDA continues to support people who have been attacked by the police. 23 complaints were recorded in a six week period during the summer, and a public statement was issued warning of rising tension.

HCDA had two significant court victories recently, both involving black people. Candy Sommers was acquitted of assaulting a police officer after she objected to Stoke Newington police manhandling a woman in Dalston. And, Bernie Parker was acquitted of actual bodily harm against a police officer after he and his sister were delayed by Stoke Newington police on their way to Heathrow Airport. Both Sommers and Parker are now suing the police.

Lesbian & Gay Festival Group

A weekend festival was organised in Clissold Park in late August - out of an office in the Centre - by and for lesbians and gay men.

Over 60 acts performed, we had funky sounds, childrens activities and stalls from political and community groups. 5,000 people came on the Saturday.

This is to become an annual event. It is crucial that we are visible in Hackney, to counter the lies and discrimination. The help and support received from many groups - Colin Roach Centre, Homeless Peoples' Festival, Clissold Park Users' Group - showed us that integrated working works.

Hackney's lesbian and gay population felt stronger, prouder of our sexuality and had loads of fun 'n' frolics at our festival.

Unemployed Action Group

Unemployed people at the Colin Roach Centre set up HUAG to campaign against the erosion of benefits and claimant's rights. Our first activity was to leaflet Jobplan workshops. These are the compulsory week long courses for people who have been unemployed for over a year.

These courses are run by private businesses. They do not offer solutions for unemployed people. Participants have described them as patronising and "guilt-tripping" and some people have been ripped-off in ineffective work programmes. Those who don't attend Jobplan workshops, or leave early without good reason, have their benefit cut by 40% for that week. HUAG is encouraging people to attend workshops, but not to co-operate with the "trainers" (take a book or a walkman).

Jobplans are the latest step towards Welfare, which will force us to work for our dole. Legislation has already squeezed benefit claimants with the stipulation that we "actively seek work", and no one is able to claim unemployment benefit for 26 weeks if dismissed from their job or if they leave voluntarily.

New unemployment legislation, coupled with restrictive trade union legislation, makes Victorian working conditions a reality once again.

Anti-Fascist Collective

A fascist local councillor in the East End and increasing numbers of racist attacks; we say "Enough is enough". Hackney has a proud tradition of beating fascism - we want to continue that tradition.

We believe that fascists should be opposed politically and physically wherever they rear their ugly heads. We also believe in the right of self-defence. We try to work with individuals, groups and organisations who share these views.

We are members of a network of anti-fascist and anti-racist groups and individuals, working together to defeat fascism; in Hackney, London and beyond. We believe that this kind of unity is the best way forward.

If you wish to help in the fight against the far right and their shameful racist violence, join HAFC. We'll keep you up to date with what's happening, when and where, and you can give us some of your time, skills or expertise; or even money.

All the groups based at the Colin Roach Centre are independent. If you want to join and get involved, ring TUSU on 071-249 8086; HCDA on 071-249 0193 or LGFG on 071-241 4071.

Future plans

The Colin Roach Centre has two sources of money - the membership and rent paying groups. Subscriptions and TUSU, HCDA and LGFG's rent do not cover the centre's running costs, never mind finance any political work. And we do not have a photocopier, a fax machine or a decent computer.

These are our three areas of expenditure - running costs, equipment and political work. Important decisions need to be made about how we spend our money. We need to keep money in case of emergencies, but we also need to invest money in equipment and political work to draw people into the centre. We need a business plan which allows us to do our political work.

Despite tight financial restrictions, we plan to develop the Colin Roach Centre's resources. All members are invited to the meeting on 16 November to discuss our future and the projects described below.

RESISTANCE

It has become virtually impossible for the Colin Roach Centre groups to get any publicity. Our politics are not popular among newspaper bosses and broadcasting editors. There's no point moaning about it, we have to get on and do the job ourselves.

This dummy edition of *RESISTANCE* has been produced quickly and cheaply for Centre members. We intend to publish a copy in the New Year for general distribution and a free monthly bulletin as soon as possible. A lot of work is involved in producing a good quality paper. We need people to write, edit, do artwork and desk top publishing. We also need to sell advertising space and arrange distribution. If you are interested, ring the Centre or come to the members meeting.

PUBLISHING CLUB

We intend to set up a Colin Roach Centre publishing club to publish *RESISTANCE* and a series of pamphlets. We have just successfully launched "*On the border of a police state*", and several other writing projects are already underway. TUSU has a draft prepared on the local trade union movement; HCDA is preparing a practical guide for victims of police crime; the AFC have researched fascist organisations and work has started on a pamphlet about corruption in Hackney Council.

The publishing club hopes to draw together all the people with ideas they want to put in print, those with publishing skills and anybody who wants to learn. By working collectively we will be able to discuss our ideas and develop our skills. We will also be able to build our own publicity machine and gain wider coverage for our ideas. Again, if you want to get involved, get in touch.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

There is now a dark room in the Centre and a photography club is in the process of being set up. Use of the dark room will be free to members, who will only have to pay for materials, and cost £10 a session for non-members. Classes will be starting soon and will cost a nominal fee to help build up the club's funds.

Want to get involved?

Come to the Colin Roach Centre members meeting on Tuesday 16 November, 7.30pm at the Centre.

FESTIVAL OF RESISTANCE

For a long time people associated with the Centre have discussed holding a Festival of Resistance. The idea is to hold a multi-cultural and multi-media series of events and discussions at different venues in one week.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of the government's sending the troops into N. Ireland. March 1994 is the 10th anniversary of the Miners' Strike. 2 March will also be the first anniversary of the appeal victory of Rennie Kingsley, Ida Oderinde, Denis Tulloch and Everald Brown, after they had been fitted up by Stoke Newington drug squad.

A group of people are keen to organise a festival which will celebrate popular resistance to oppression. We intend to link up with other groups and hold a series of events. There is a meeting to discuss holding a Festival of Resistance on Sunday 21 November, 2.00pm at the centre.

CALENDAR

November

5	Mark Metcalf trial.
11	On the border of a police state public meeting.
16	Colin Roach Centre members meeting.
16-18	Colin Cornelius industrial tribunal concludes in Croydon.
20-27	Trade union delegation to Kurdistan.
21	Meeting to discuss Festival of Resistance Anti-fascist meeting in Leicester.
27	

December

1	Picket of Hackney Town Hall.
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January 1994

12	Eleventh anniversary of Colin Roach's death and first anniversary of Colin Roach Centre opening.
29	Bloody Sunday Demonstration, to commemorate the shooting of 13 unarmed people by British troops in Ireland.

February

We intend to hold a conference to agree a structure for the Centre and discuss our developing work.

March

A Festival of Resistance is planned to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Miners Strike.

May

1	May Day demo.
	International Workers Day social at Hackney Empire.
1-2	Anti-racist football tournament.
5	Local election.

On the border of a POLICE STATE

On the border of a police state is a pamphlet produced by HCDA and TUSU. It was launched at a recent press conference by Mike Mansfield QC, who has represented many of the gross miscarriage of justice victims and Frank Critchlow, the owner of the Mangrove Cafe in Notting Hill, who has campaigned against police crime for many years and received £50,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police last year.

On the Border of a Police State gives a summary of the recommendations in the government's White Paper on Police Reform, the Sheehy Report and the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. The pamphlet explains how the three reports propose far reaching changes to strengthen police powers at a time when they have been widely condemned. It warns that Britain is degenerating into a police state.

On the Border of a Police State urges working class communities to challenge police powers independently of the Labour Party, which is competing with the Tories on the law and order issue. Firstly, by setting up community defence campaigns to support the victims of police crime in their struggles for redress. Secondly by raising the issues of police injustice in our trade unions. Thirdly, by challenging police powers in the political arena and campaigning for reform. In particular, *On the Border of a Police State*, calls for the power to investigate crime to be taken away from the police and given to a separate Criminal Investigations Service.

On the border of a police state is available from the Colin Roach Centre. Cost £2.00 + 50p p&p.

Hackney Council has charged Mark Metcalf with advertising without planning permission.

SUPPORT Mark Metcalf

Thames Magistrates Court
Bow Road, E2
Friday 5 November, 2.00pm

Hackney Council sacked Colin Comelius after he discovered corruption. His industrial tribunal for wrongful dismissal finishes on 16, 17 & 18 November in Croydon.

Phone Colin Roach Centre for details.

COLIN ROACH CENTRE

Members Meeting

Tues 16 November, 7.30pm

Open to all members.
Administrative and political decisions need to be made.

PICKET

HACKNEY TOWN HALL

1 December, 6.00 - 7.30pm

Lobby the Finance Sub Committee to give the Colin Roach Centre a rate rebate.

Join the Colin Roach Centre

If you want to get involved in the work of any of the groups based in the Colin Roach Centre, or support our work, join us. Membership costs £5 a month waged and £1 unwaged. There are reductions for low paid

The Colin Roach Centre
10a Bradbury Street
London N16 8JN

Telephones:
TUSU 071-249 8086
HCDA 071-249 0193
LGFG 071-241 4071

STANDING ORDER FORM

To Bank (name of your bank)

Address.....

Please pay Girobank PLC, Bootle, Merseyside, L1R 0AA; sort code 72-00-00. For the credit of Colin Roach Centre, Account number 178029300.

The sum of £ Amount in words

Commencing and thereafter every

Account to be debited (ie Current)

Signature(s)

Date



A campaigning pamphlet on three government reports on the police and a strategy for challenging the emergence of a police state.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE ASSOCIATION
HACKNEY TRADE UNION SUPPORT UNIT
September 1993

PUBLIC MEETING

Halkevi Community Centre
100 Stoke Newington High St, N16
Thursday 11 November, 7.30pm

Speakers include:
Mike Mansfield
Frank Critchlow
NUM HCDA TUSU